

MEDICAL-RELATED CLAIMS

**§ 900.190 Is FTCA the exclusive remedy for a tort claim for personal injury or death resulting from the performance of a self-determination contract?**

Yes, except as explained in § 900.183(b). No claim may be filed against a self-determination contractor or employee for personal injury or death arising from the performance of medical, surgical, dental, or related functions by the contractor in carrying out self-determination contracts under the Act. Related functions include services such as those provided by nurses, laboratory and x-ray technicians, emergency medical technicians and other health care providers including psychologists and social workers. All such claims shall be filed against the United States and are subject to the limitations and restrictions of the FTCA.

**§ 900.191 Are employees of self-determination contractors providing health services under the self-determination contract protected by FTCA?**

Yes. For the purpose of Federal Tort Claims Act coverage, an Indian tribe or tribal organization and its employees performing medical-related functions under a self-determination contract are deemed a part of the Public Health Service if the employees are acting within the scope of their employment in carrying out the contract.

**§ 900.192 What employees are covered by FTCA for medical-related claims?**

- (a) Permanent employees;
- (b) Temporary employees;
- (c) Persons providing services without compensation in carrying out a contract;
- (d) Persons required because of their employment by a self-determination contractor to serve non-IHS beneficiaries (even if the services are provided in facilities not owned by the contractor); and
- (e) Federal employees assigned to the contract.

**§ 900.193 Does FTCA coverage extend to individuals who provide health care services under a personal services contract providing services in a facility that is owned, operated, or constructed under the jurisdiction of the IHS?**

Yes. The coverage extends to individual personal services contractors providing health services in such a facility, including a facility owned by an Indian tribe or tribal organization but operated under a self-determination contract with IHS.

**§ 900.194 Does FTCA coverage extend to services provided under a staff privileges agreement with a non-IHS facility where the agreement requires a health care practitioner to provide reciprocal services to the general population?**

Yes. Those services are covered, as long as the contractor's health care practitioners do not receive additional compensation from a third party for the performance of these services and they are acting within the scope of their employment under a self-determination contract. Reciprocal services include:

- (a) Cross-covering other medical personnel who temporarily cannot attend their patients;
- (b) Assisting other personnel with surgeries or other medical procedures;
- (c) Assisting with unstable patients or at deliveries; or
- (d) Assisting in any patient care situation where additional assistance by health care personnel is needed.

**§ 900.195 Does FTCA coverage extend to the contractor's health care practitioners providing services to private patients on a fee-for-services basis when such personnel (not the self-determination contractor) receive the fee?**

No.

**§ 900.196 Do covered services include the conduct of clinical studies and investigations and the provision of emergency services, including the operation of emergency motor vehicles?**

Yes, if the services are provided in carrying out a self-determination contract. (An emergency motor vehicle is